

Kamloops---"The Place In The Sun"

(By Herbert Fiddes)

The slogan "See B. C. First," is one that frequently needs emphasis, particularly among the favored few thousands who have the privilege of residing in this wonderful Garden of the Blessed. The ignorance of their own home surroundings is appalling among many folks, who can talk of other Provinces, of other scenes, and even other countries.

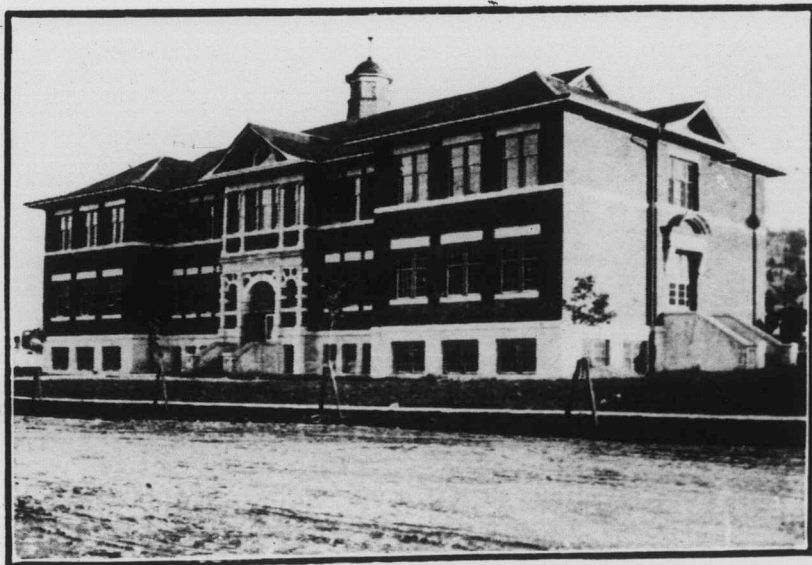
Nestling among the hills, 250 miles from Vancouver, is a city of some 5,000 population that to many is merely a name. Most of the citizens of B. C. have passed it, for it stands on the main line of the C. P. R., but their knowledge of it is often merely superficial. One lady told the writer that for many years her impressions of Kamloops were drawn from a sleepy glance from a Pullman sleeper, and consisted of a sign "KAMLOOPS," one lamp-post and a Chinaman. Fortunately it was her privilege in later years to be enlightened by a lengthy residence within the Capital of the Cariboo, which she has since made her home.

However worthy and notable may be the features of the big Coast cities, they do not hold a monopoly of the good things B. C. has to offer her people.

Kamloops lies in the Dry Belt, and by her geographical position has that for which the Kaiser sent his nation to doom—"a place in the sun." Few, very few indeed, are the days upon which the sun does not smile upon this fair and progressive city. Typical of the weather conditions in Kamloops was a recent weather report which read: "Prairie—below zero, Vancouver—raining, Kamloops—summerlike weather."

It was away back in 1812 that some explorers for those old fur traders, The North West Company, established a post (the remains of which may still be seen) at the junction of what is now known as the North and South Thompson Rivers. The place was named "Kamloops," being the Indian equivalent for "Meeting of the Waters." The excellent water communications made the place ideal for trading purposes with the Indians. Some 70 years later the C. P. R. engineers, confirming the judgment of the early pioneers, established a divisional point at Kamloops, and in still more recent times, the C.N.R. have followed suit.

Kamloops, however, is not only a railway centre, but is the headquarters for a number of Federal and Provincial Government offices. These offices are situated in beautiful



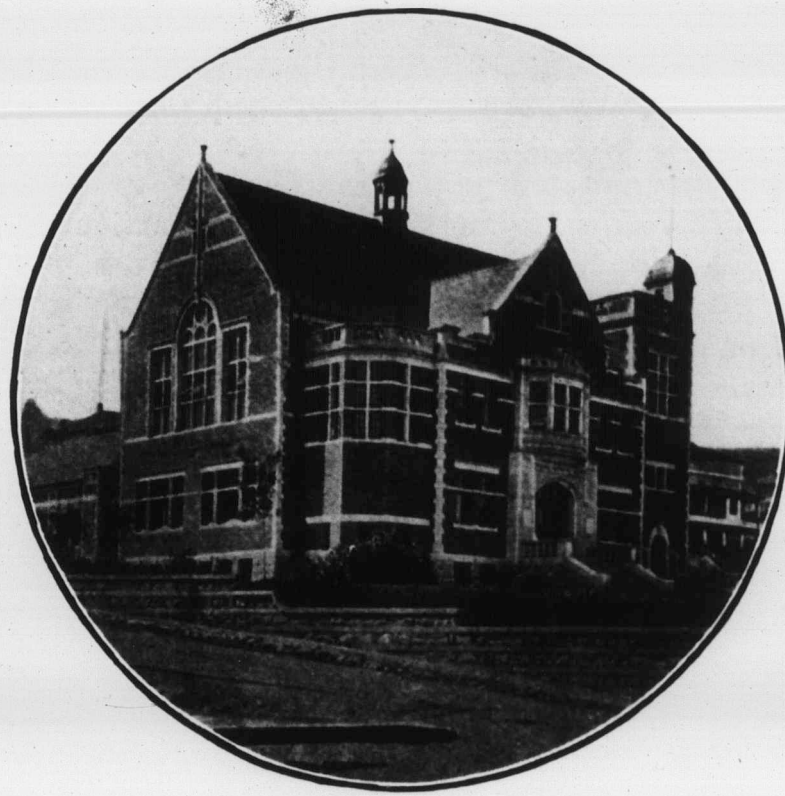
High School, Kamloops.

modern buildings. A prominent engineer who recently visited Kamloops, said the city was as nearly a model city as any city he had visited in Western Canada. Standing

out prominently against the rising hills, forming a picturesque background, are the handsome buildings of the Convent, Royal Inland Hospital, Provincial Pioneer Home for Old Men, and the Provincial Jail, all with neatly kept lawns and gardens. Lying, as Kamloops does, in the Dry Belt, visitors to the city are surprised at the beautiful green grass and wonderful gardens that decorate the town.

Kamloops is an example of the wonderful work of irrigation. Flowers of all kinds grow in profusion, and citizens take a pride in beautifying their homes, and incidentally beautifying the city. Most of the residential streets are finished off with nice green boulevards, which, with the fine arc lighting standards, give the city a prosperous appearance.

Not only has this Capital of the Interior won a justified reputation for her flower gardens, but as recently as last fall, one of her citizens carried off the First Prize at the New Westminster Provincial Exhibition for the best selec-



Court House, Kamloops.

tion of home grown tomatoes, and the Kamloops District won a worthy place for produce.

The city itself is run upon a sound business basis. The Ward system of election of Aldermen has long since been abandoned, and the Aldermen are elected at large. Supervising Public utilities is a highly efficient City Manager, who runs the city plant as if it was his own business. The result of this business-like arrangement has been most gratifying and economical from the standpoint of the city's finances.

Among other industries that make Kamloops a thriving centre is the great cattle raising business for which the central and southern portions of the Cariboo district are famous. Few people, as they rush through this area on one of our railways, realize that over one hundred thousand head of cattle are ranging on the rolling hills. The care of these animals engages a large number of people.

Kamloops is the mecca of suffering humanity, inasmuch as it is the sanatorium of the continent for those suffering from pulmonary diseases. The clear crisp air seems to have a wonderful effect upon those unfortunate enough to have fallen victims to the great White Plague. Nine miles from the city proper stands Tranquille Sanatorium, famous throughout the entire medical profession for its treatment of tuberculosis. A handsome building, recently greatly